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LETTER DATED 6 APRIL 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to forward herewith the joint statement of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government of the Republic of Serbia of 6 April 1999.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Joint statement adopted by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on 6 April 1999

The Federal Government and the Government of the Republic of Serbia in separate sessions held today adopted the following joint statement:

Proceeding from the accord reached by the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, and Ibrahim Rugova, contained in the joint statement signed on 1 April 1999, that problems in Kosovo and Metohija are to be settled solely by peaceful means,

Bearing in mind the further concretization of such a joint commitment at the meeting between Mr. Rugova and the Vice-President of the Federal Government, Nikola Sainovic, on 5 April 1999 when the accord was reached:

(a) To act jointly in achieving a political agreement,

(b) To work jointly on the return of refugees,

The Federal Government and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, assessing that the realization of these commitments should be commenced without delay and that firstly acute problems should be resolved, unanimously concluded the following:

1. That, in honour of the greatest Christian holiday, Easter, all actions of the Yugoslav Army and police in Kosovo and Metohija against the terrorist organization "KLA" should cease unilaterally beginning today at 2000, and expecting that such a decision would be considered a gesture of good will and a wish for the support of a peaceful solution, which represents the unambiguous commitment of the majority of the population of Kosovo and Metohija, regardless of nationality or religion, and expecting also that the extreme elements, respecting the will of the majority of the population, will also exercise restraint from renewing terrorist activities against civilians and government representatives;

2. That the government representatives should immediately embark upon, in cooperation with the representatives of those Albanians represented by Mr. Rugova, the preparation of a political agreement, as spelled out under paragraph (a) above, wishing to first of all to reach a simple interim agreement in order to ensure the functioning of joint organs of self-government in Kosovo and Metohija of the Albanian and Serb national communities as well as of the other national communities. That agreement would, after a certain period of time, form a basis for lasting substantial autonomy in Kosovo and Metohija, within Serbia and Yugoslavia;

3. That, together with the representatives of Albanians represented by Mr. Rugova, they should prepare a programme for the return of refugees and the establishment of self-government, with appropriate participation

and assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Federal Government and the Government of the Republic of Serbia consider that this is a way to resolve all acute issues in Kosovo and Metohija, to stabilize peace, enable the return of refugees and establish self-government, which will affirm equality of citizens and national communities and lay foundations for a lasting solution.